

## Message Text

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S/S - MR. SEBASTIAN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 297512 TOSEC 320013

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: IEA

SUBJECT: IEA - CHAIRMANSHIP OF GOVERNING BOARD

FOR HARTMAN FROM KATZ

1. DAVIGNON'S SELECTION FOR THE EC COMMISSION HAS RAISED THE QUESTIONS OF WHETHER HE CAN AND WILL CONTINUE TO CHAIR THE IEA GOVERNING BOARD, AND IF NOT, WHO MIGHT BE A SUITABLE REPLACEMENT. I TALKED TO STEVIE BY TELEPHONE TODAY AND TOLD HIM WE WOULD HOPE HE COULD CONTINUE TO CHAIR THE GOVERNING BOARD, AT LEAST UNTIL MID 1977 WHEN THE REDUCED DEPENDENCY EXERCISE SHOULD HAVE BEEN COMPLETED AT A MINISTERIAL MEETING. WE HAD HEARD EARLIER THAT HE MIGHT BE WILLING TO STAY ON FOR AN INTERIM PERIOD, PROVIDED THAT THE FRENCH DID NOT OBJECT. HOWEVER, IN OUR CONVERSATION OF TODAY, HE WAS VERY DUBIOUS THAT IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR HIM TO DO SO. THE MAIN REASON HE GAVE WAS THAT HE DID NOT EXPECT TO HAVE THE ENERGY-PORTFOLIO AND THUS HIS CONTINUED CHAIRMANSHIP OF IEA WOULD BE AWKWARD HE DID NOT MENTION ANY REACTION WHICH HE MIGHT HAVE HAD FROM THE FRENCH ALTHOUGH I SUSPECT FRENCH REACTION MAY BE  
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A STRONG FACTOR.

2. WHEN YOU SEE HIM THIS WEEK, I SUGGEST YOU EMPHASIZE

AGAIN OUR HOPE THAT HE CAN STAY ON FOR AN INTERIM PERIOD. IF HE IS UNWILLING TO STAY, WE WILL HAVE TO EXPLORE POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVES FOR THE CHAIRMANSHIP. YOU MAY HAVE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS THIS WITH DAVIGNON AND OTHERS THIS WEEK. I WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION YOU MIGHT RECEIVE AS WELL AS YOUR OWN COMMENTS.

3. FOR YOUR BACKGROUND, AT THE MOMENT, THERE ARE FOUR UNOFFICIAL CANDIDATES: (1) TOWE OF CANADA, (2) ROWEDDER OF GERMANY, (3) ERDVALL OF DENMARK; AND (4) RAMPTON OF THE UK. TOWE IS CURRENTLY VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE GOVERNING BOARD AND THE CANADIANS HAVE ALREADY INDICATED TO US INFORMALLY THAT THEY CONSIDER THEY HAVE A FIRST OPTION ON THE CHAIRMANSHIP SHOULD THE SEAT COME OPEN. TOWE IS WELL-QUALIFIED BY RANK AND BACKGROUND FOR THE CHAIRMANSHIP, BUT HE CLEARLY LACKS DAVIGNON'S LEADERSHIP QUALITIES AND POLITICAL JUDGEMENT, WHICH HAVE BEEN INVALUABLE OVER THE PAST TWO YEARS. HOWEVER, GIVEN OUR BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP WITH CANADA IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR US NOT TO SUPPORT TOWE.

4. ON THE OTHER HAND, THERE IS APPARENTLY SOME FEELING IN EUROPE THAT THE CHAIRMAN SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE A EUROPEAN. THERE MAY BE SOME MERIT IN THIS FROM OUR OWN PERSPECTIVE SINCE AN IEA CHAIRMAN FROM WITHIN THE EC WOULD PROBABLY FACILITATE DEALINGS WITH FRANCE AND THE HARMONIZATION OF IEA AND EC ENERGY ACTIVITIES. THE EUROPEAN MOST PROMINENTLY MENTIONED HAS BEEN ROWEDDER. ON THE BASIS OF RANK (STATE SECRETARY), BACKGROUND AND PERSONALITY, HE WOULD BE A GOOD CHOICE TO REPLACE DAVIGNON. WE HAVE HEARD FROM PARIS THAT ERDVALL IS WELL REGARDED ON THE BASIS OF HIS PERFORMANCE AS DANISH PERM REP IN BRUSSELS. HE WOULD BE NEW TO ENERGY POLICY, HOWEVER, AND HIS LEADERSHIP ACTIVITIES ARE UNKNOWN. HE IS REPORTEDLY RETURNING TO COPENHAGEN TO TAKE OVER AS UNDER SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS FROM CHRISTIANSON. RAMPTON IS ALSO WELL QUALIFIED FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF

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RANK AND ENERGY BACKGROUND, BUT HAS BEEN DEEPLY INVOLVED IN THE NORTH SEA PARTICIPATION AGREEMENTS. I WOULD FOR THIS REASON ALONE HAVE SOME RESERVATION ABOUT A BRIT AS IEA CHAIRMAN AT HIS PARTICULAR TIME. WE WOULD ALSO NEED ASSURANCE THAT HE WOULD GIVE THE TIME REQUIRED. ROBINSON

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